



Southeast News

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Revelation
22:2b

One Great Hour of Sharing

United Church of Christ

The suggested date for the 1987 One Great Hour of Sharing offering is March 29. On that day, many United Church of Christ congregations, along with those of other denominations, will gather together their gifts and invest them where the hurts of the world are greatest.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we are able to respond with emergency assistance to victims of natural disasters, overseas and in the U.S. We provide services to refugees and social services to children overseas, including facilities for children with disabilities.

The largest share of our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing supports development projects, in which the guiding principle is helping people to help themselves. We help to develop clean water resources, diversified agriculture, and new vocational skills toward the goal of fostering dignity and self-sufficiency among people in need from Latin America to the Middle East, Southern Asia to Africa.

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing theme is based on words from the book of Revelation: "and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the peoples." In recognition that the leaves of the Tree of Life are for the healing of all people, will you join with thousands of others in One Great Hour of Sharing this year?

This year, to mark its fortieth anniversary, Church World Service has produced a ten-minute sound filmstrip, "SHARE THE JOY," which illustrates the work we support with part of our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

You can borrow a copy of "SHARE THE JOY" by contacting your UCC-related resource center, your conference office, or a member of the Corporate Board of the United Church Board for World Ministries. So that as many churches as possible can use the limited number of copies of "SHARE THE JOY," please return it promptly when you are finished showing it.

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

WELCOME TO NEW PASTORS!

MORGAN COUNTY PARISH...AL-TENN ASSOCIATION held the Act of Installation of the Rev. John A. Stowell as pastor of Morgan County Parish (Deer Lodge Congregational - Wartburg Presbyterian & Lancing Presbyterian Churches). The service was held Sunday, Jan. 11, 1987, at 4:00 p.m..

Rev. David Loar, the AL-TENN Association Minister, preached the sermon, and Rev. Ralph Galt lead the Installation Prayer. Rev. Stowell has lived at Deer Lodge since October. We wish him a blessed and successful ministry in the Morgan County Parish.

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LANETT CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH...The Rev. Bert Schory has been called as pastor of Lanett Congregational Christian Church in Lanett, Ala. He moved into the parsonage (from Arkansas), on Dec. 16th, and began his new ministry on December 21st.

The Search Committee spent many hours and quite a few months in their search for a new pastor. We extend our best wishes to those who served on the committee, and our warmest welcome to Rev. Schory, his wife, Sally, and their family, with the hope that you may all be blessed in service to God's Kingdom.

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC, ATLANTA, GA

The Act of Installation of Rev. George Thomas as Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Atlanta, GA., will be held Sunday, Feb. 8, at 4:00 p.m.. Following the Installation Service, a reception will be held at the Atlanta Life Insurance Company in Herndon Plaza, 100 Auburn Avenue, (one block from the church).

Our prayerful best wishes to Rev. Thomas and to First Congregational Church in this important occasion.

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KNOXVILLE, CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR...A surprise party was held in celebration of Rev. John R. Lackey's 10th anniversary as pastor of Church of the Savior. Members of the congregation pitched in with all kinds of fun-filled ideas, culminating in a festive evening. Rev. David Loar attended, representing the AL-TENN Association.

Pastor Given Award from Mayor

At a recent conference at the University

(Continued, next column)

of Tennessee, Rev. John Lackey and one other person were presented awards by the mayor of Knoxville, which says "...does hereby recognize the outstanding achievements of John Lackey with the presentation of this service award."

Congratulations, Rev. Lackey!

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ALA-TENN ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL CALL

Moderator Daniel Rosemerry has called a special meeting of the AL-TENN Association for an Ecclesiastical Council to consider the Ordination into the Ministry of Mr. Paul Shupe, Saturday, Jan. 17, 1987, at 3:00 p.m., at Pilgrim Congregational Church UCC, in Chattanooga. Mr. Shupe is a member of Brookmeade Congregational Church in Nashville, and is a senior at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Our prayerful best wishes are extended to Mr. Shupe and all who will be participating in this important event.

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UCC WOMEN'S WEEK REMINDER

Women's Week in the UCC is set for Feb. 1-7 this year. The Coordinating Center for Women says:

"Because women are strengthened in their faithfulness by opportunities that deepen and renew their faith commitments, a week such as this is being planned for a second year. All women contribute to the powerful and precious pattern which makes up the whole body of Christ. This church-wide event can begin to reclaim for women in the UCC the strength of partnership that is part of our heritage. At a time when the future of an office for women in the church is uncertain, we can join in worship, fellowship and service as we look ahead to a continued journey."

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"QUOTE"

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

...George Washington Carver

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award will be presented to Millard Fuller, founder and Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, during her annual assembly address to be held at Freedom Hall Auditorium in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, Atlanta, GA., January 16, at 7:00 p.m..

According to Mrs. King, the Humanitarian Award is "reserved for those few select individuals who give their lives to the business of improving human welfare and promoting social reform regardless of nations, cultures, races, religions or other artificial barriers that separate people who share a common humanity."

"Millard Fuller is just such a person," Mrs. King continued. "He is a Christian who has taken literally Christ's command to love your brother as yourself and consequently has risen beyond and above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Habitat for Humanity, founded by Fuller in 1976, seeks to build a better "habitat" for the economically disadvantaged. Believing that the poor "need capital, not charity; co-workers, not caseworkers," Habitat builds houses in partnership with the needy throughout the United States & Canada; in Africa; In Central and South America; in Asia; in the Pacific Islands; and in the Caribbean. These houses are sold at no profit, with a fixed-term mortgage. Since no interest is charged, the houses are affordable for even the poorest families. Habitat has helped over 2,000 families get a decent place to live, and will help 1,000 more in 1987.

Mrs. King feels that is very appropriate to honor Millard Fuller and Habitat for Humanity this year because of the great problem in the United States and in other countries not having adequate shelter, and because 1987 has been designated by the United Nations as the "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless." She believes that "Millard Fuller's vision of a shackless world and the Habitat movement" is very much in line with her late husband's life work of concern for peace and justice for all of God's people.

UCC PAPER ON ECONOMICS/THEOLOGY CALLS FOR ACTION ON 'BIBLICAL MANDATES'

A paper raising personal, churchwide, national and global questions about economics and theology will go to UCC churches, associations, conferences and seminaries Jan. 15. A study process has been recommended.

The UCC's Economics and Theology Covenant Group completed "Christian Faith and Economic Life" in December, not as a finished theology, but to prompt discussion.

Against the modern view of economics as a separate science, the paper outlines "biblical mandates" for seeing economic activity as a dimension of faith. It analyzes "the inadequacies of contemporary economic systems" and suggests a system more consistent with "Christian principles of economic justice" would do six things. The system would seek to fulfill everyone's basic material needs, involve all people in economically rewarding activity, build communities of dignity and well-being, respect human rights and enhance freedom, use natural resources responsibly and promote international peace.

Noting that "the pursuit of economic justice entails sacrifices," the paper suggests ideas for personal study, action and lifestyle changes and calls on the church to evaluate its educational mission, employment practices, stewardship of resources, service ministries and public advocacy accordingly.

Formed in 1980, the covenant group wrote the paper in response to a 1983 General Synod directive. A response form accompanies the paper; a study guide will be ready on Feb. 1, and the group has asked conferences to schedule open hearings in 1987. Comments received will be used in writing a proposed pronouncement for General Synod in 1989.

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WAYDE J. WASHBURN SAYS:

Mark your calendars and make your plans now! The 1987 Minister/Spouse Retreat will be at Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds in Blowing Rock, N.C., on May 18 - 21. Dr. Linton Mills, Professor of Pastoral Care at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Rev. Joyce Myers, of OCLL, will lead the program - with several S.E.C. persons assisting in other areas. More information and all the details will be available soon.

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GENERAL SYNOD 16 - June 25-30, 1987

The Sixteenth General Synod will convene on June 25, 1987, in Cleveland, Ohio. Visitors from any of our churches are welcome. If you do plan to attend, please let the Conference Office know so that we can assist in your registration.

Also, if any church or Association has a resolution it would like to have considered by General Synod, please send it to the Conference Office to be forwarded by March 1, 1987.

Items of interest to be considered at this year's Synod include the proposal for the new Center for Women, and the recommended move of U.C.C. Headquarters from New York to St. Louis.

Along with all the business, it is a time for worship and fellowship. Everyone who can attend is urged to be a part of this gathering.

Emmett O. Floyd
Conference Minister

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AL-TENN Association is helping to start a UCC Fellowship in Murfreesboro, Tenn.. It is on a six-month trial basis, and does not yet have official standing as a congregation, but we wish them well, and ask that they be remembered in your prayers.

--from Rev. David E. Loar
AL-TENN Association Minister

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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WORD FROM THE WORLD BOARD

The annual gathering of the Board for World Ministries was part family reunion, part business meeting, part a showing of the flags, and part a deep reflection on the mission the spirit is leading us to in 1987. I wish you all could have been there.

The 177th annual meeting of the UCBWM was held in the south the year, and there was good participation from sisters and brothers of the Southeast Conference. As we sat around the breakfast table, board members, focus members, former missionaries, and friends, our common goal emerged to stay in closer touch with the churches and people of our conference.

So, look for:

A regular column in the Southeast News; A lenten bulletin insert series, from the Southeast Conference, focusing on One Great Hour of Sharing;

A visitor from the East in the spring.

The World Board is your Board, to learn about, to share about, to pray about.

Shalom,

Rev. Carol Jean Delcher
Southeast Conference
Coordinator.

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"No one is justified in keeping for his exclusive use what he does not need, when others lack necessities."

--from the U.S. Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter on the economy, published November, 1986.

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